

# Allen County HamNews

Fort Wayne Radio Club Fort Wayne DX Association Allen County Amateur Radio Technical Society

October 2020

Volume 21

Issue



**LIGHT BULB  
ANTENNAS?**

READ THE FEATURED ARTICLE  
BY TED, K8AQM TO LEARN MORE!

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## Correction for September HamNews

The following correction applies to last month's article entitled 'Indiana "Radio Activity"':

"Coincidentally, Hatton, North Dakota is the location of the recently retired Section Manager of North Dakota, Mary Carlson, WA0CSL" (pp.6-7) should state that section manager is actually K0YL in Thompson, ND.

### From the Editor: October

Another month has gone up in smoke (for some reason that reminds me of a classic movie).

Be sure to check out this month's featured article on light bulb antennas by special guest author Ted, K8AQ-M/VE9AQM. His article is guaranteed to shed some illumination on this unique topic.

Every month I have to cut the selected contest calendar in half in order to make it fit on a single page. I try to select a variety of operating events that might appeal to a broad audience of ham operators and interests. However, it is a sign that our hobby is multi-faceted and quite alive.

Hang in there with this ongoing co-vid situation, coupled with the various other things that the country is dealing with. Get on the air, make some contacts, join a foxhunt, enter a contest, contact the International Space Station, or just have a fun chat on the local repeater.

As always, thanks to everyone who submitted material for this edition of HamNews! If you would like to share any material for the November edition, please send those materials to me by October 30th.

Be radio-active!

73,

*Josh Long, W9HT*

drjoshlong (at) gmail.com

P.S. Don't miss this month's for sale section! It includes a few new listings and several from last month too.

## FWRC 100th Anniversary CQWW Honor Roll

To celebrate our 100th anniversary, the Fort Wayne Radio Club is inviting its membership to get on the air for the CQWW SSB contest on October 24 and 25. With thousands of "CQ Contest" heard on 160-10 meters (no WARC bands), finding quick contacts and working DX is a piece of cake! So, here's the challenge:

Log 20 different countries from 5 different zones or 25 different countries from 4 different zones (20x5=100, 25x4=100....get it?)

The CQWW contest exchange is SIGNAL REPORT and ZONE.....nothing else! Here in Indiana, we are in zone 4 > so we send 59 4. A QSO would go like this

(DX station) CQ CONTEST Fox 6 Hotel Kilo Alpha  
(You) Whisky 9 Sierra Alpha November  
(Dx station) W9SAN 59 14  
(You) 59 4

So, Steve worked F6HKA - the call sign tells us he is in France and in zone 14. There were no extra words in the exchange. . . Short and sweet! It goes quickly but working DX is a piece of cake!

Email your "score" to Ken at n8kr (at) arrl.net . You do not need to send him your log. Tell him the number of different countries and number of zones. Write a little summary of your experience: some of the countries you worked, what bands you found dx on, your rig and antenna. This is all great info we can share in the newsletter. If you reach the magical "100" (20 countries and 5 zones or 25 countries and 4 zones) you will be added to our FWRC CQWW Honor Roll!

More info to follow. For more info on the contest, go to [cqww.com](http://cqww.com).

P.S. from the Editor. A nifty certificate will be available for those who qualify for the FWRC CQWW Honor Roll!



# CQ World Wide DX Contest

## NWS Plans Online-Only Autumn SKYWARN® Storm Spotter Class

By Jay Farlow, W9LW, SKYWARN Net Manager

The northern Indiana office of the National Weather Service (IWX) will resume SKYWARN® storm spotter training this fall, but only via the internet. The office plans to teach its class via the GoToWebinar service, which supports Windows, Mac, Linux and Chrome computers, as well as iOS and Android mobile devices. As is always the case with NWS SKYWARN classes, there will be no cost to attend.

IWX plans to offer the class six times this fall:

- ◆ Wednesday, October 14, noon – 2 p.m.
- ◆ Thursday, October 15, 5 p.m. – 7 p.m.
- ◆ Wednesday, October 21, noon – 2 p.m.
- ◆ Thursday, October 22, 5 p.m. – 7 p.m.
- ◆ Wednesday, October 28, noon – 2 p.m.
- ◆ Thursday, October 29, 5 p.m. – 7 p.m.

Each class is identical, so there's no reason to attend more than one. Each session can accommodate up to 150 attendees. Pre-registration is therefore necessary, and classes will automatically close when they fill. To register, visit the following web page: [https://www.weather.gov/iwx/Spotter\\_Event\\_List](https://www.weather.gov/iwx/Spotter_Event_List).

Each attendee should register individually. IWX recommends against viewing the webinar in groups, because the office needs to update its storm spotter database through the online registrations.

Throughout each class, IWX will ask each attendee to respond to interactive poll questions, which is another reason each person needs to register and log in individually.

People who complete the class will receive a certificate of completion via email, using the email address in each person's registration. IWX does not issue spotter ID cards, or ID numbers. Contrary to popular belief, IWX *does not certify* storm spotters. Certification implies an expiration date and a system of removal for misconduct, none of which applies to IWX spotter training.

Even though there's no certification to expire and even though I've attended a spotter class countless times over several decades, I usually attend at least one class every year. I find that doing so refreshes my memory of what to look for and what reports IWX needs, so it can better issue storm warnings. I recommend the same for any reader who is interested in participating in a SKYWARN net. Autumn severe weather is possible in our area! Just one case in point is the [November, 2002 tornado that struck Van Wert, Ohio](#), doing damage rated at F4 on the Fujitsu scale.

The class is worthwhile for anyone who has even a passing interest in severe weather, because it teaches how storms form and how to know the difference between scary-looking but benign conditions and those that are true threats.



**Skywarn® Storm Spotter Training**

◆ **Six Sessions**

- ◆ Three mid-day and Three Evening
- ◆ Limited to 150 attendees per session

◆ **Computer and Internet required**

◆ **Registration and other details**  
[www.weather.gov/iwx/iwxskywarn](http://www.weather.gov/iwx/iwxskywarn)

Dates and Times	
Noon to 2 PM	5 PM to 7 PM
October 14	October 15
October 21	October 22
October 28	October 29

**Questions?**  
 Call: 574-834-1104  
 Email: [nws.northemindiana@noaa.gov](mailto:nws.northemindiana@noaa.gov)  
 Facebook: [@NWSNorthemindiana](#)  
 Twitter: [@NWSIWX](#)

Sharon Sheron



## Lighting-up the Bands...No Joke!

By K8AQM/VE9AQM

Amateur radio is full of mysteries and especially in the theory of antennas. Why do circles of wire radiate, why do random length wire antennas work and especially in this article, why do lightbulbs radiate? The absolute answer is I don't really know except that any wire conductor will radiate "some." This is proven by the use of some folks having an antenna most amateurs should think wouldn't work but through the use of a tuner they do work! The following article is our adventure using lightbulbs as antennas.

For the past year here at K8AQM we have been experimenting with a "light bulb" for an antenna. At the present time we have "light bulb antennas" for 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 meters. Admittedly, they are used primarily for FT8 and FT4 operation but...I have used them twice in Straight Key Century Club, Straight Key Sprint (SKS) events with amazing success!

The light bulb was used back in my early Novice days (1960s) as a means of tuning a transmitter before connecting it to a "real antenna," my homebrew transmitter had no meter. The light bulb was considered a "dummy load" antenna. Back in those early days my childhood friend (also a ham) lived only two blocks away and quite by chance he "heard" me tuning up! Wow, the lightbulb really was an antenna! As "Generals" we used the dummy load light bulb antennas to talk (AM) late at night on 10m doing our physics homework. One night as we were trying to figure a problem determining the potential energy of some homework problems, a voice broke in and told us we had forgotten an important step and our answer was wrong... DEAD SILENCE...who was this and how could he have heard us? Would you believe it was our physics teacher all the way across town?!? He heard us by chance as he was tuning and hoping for a late night 10m band opening.

Years passed and there was no need for a lightbulb dummy load as the rigs now had meters and tuning was made much easier. An article announcing a "light bulb QSO" party caught the eye of my friend Jeremy, KD8VSQ. I don't know how he does it but he always manages to talk me into the craziest ideas! We started to think about building an "efficient light bulb antenna" (an oxymoron?). With the help of KE8CEW who is a mechanical shop wizard, we designed a fairly efficient dummy load lightbulb antenna.

No reason to re-invent the wheel, we decided not to wind our own loading coils and just use hamstick-type or similar mobile antennas as our loading coils. We used some old quad fiberglass poles and later some PVC pipe for mounting the antennas. Here is what we did: we took the "stinger" out of the hamstick and connected a wire from one of the light bulb sockets screws to the where the stinger had been secured in the coil. No connection was (at this time) made to the other lug of the lightbulb socket. Figure 1. Illustrates the connection.

Connecting the base of the hamstick was easy too, we just connected the base via a nut in the bottom of the hamstick. A wire attached around that bolt was connected to the center pin of the so-239. Figure 2 illustrates how this was done.

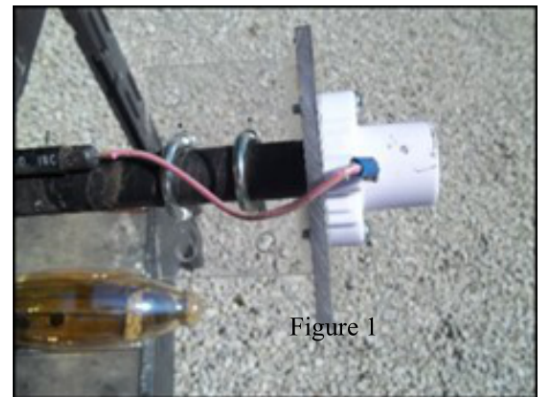


Figure 1

A bolt with a wing nut was added to the plexiglass mount which we used to attach the two "tuned elevated radials." A wire connected to the ground side from the mounted so-239 is connected to the wingnut.

The length of each of the radials at 7.050 MHz. is 33.19 ft. on 40m. It is best if the radials slope down from the base of the antenna (you can fine-tune the exact frequency a bit with sloping the radials or raising them) but on our 160m antenna they are nearly flat, parallel to the ground and it still works fine.



Since there was no hamstick available for 160m, we used two 80m hamsticks connected in series, stinger lug to base. We still needed a capacitor top hat to get the frequency lower.

Our 20m, 80m and 160m antennas required the use of a “top hat” loading system to get the exact frequency we wanted; we used that other lug on the light bulb socket to connect a hard-drawn aluminum wire (length determined by “guess-and-by gosh”). We then just trimmed the top hat to the exact frequency needed using an MFJ antenna analyzer.

So what is the “theory” as to why this antenna system works? I believe the hamsticks are similar to the “tuner” (loading coil) and the lightbulb is the “random wire” like any other random wire-tuner system. N6BV, who designed many commercial antennas once said, “anything can radiate...some.” I believe this to be true and my experiences with lightbulbs has proven this.

A note about our light bulbs...we use Satco s2431 bulbs. These bulbs have over 60 inches of filament (woven back-and-forth)! They are rated at 100 watts but we run them at 90 watts max. Figure 3 shows what the Satco s2431 bulbs look like.



Figure 3

2019 was the first year we tried the light bulb antennas in the Light Bulb QSO Party. Using a single light bulb antenna made for each band 160-15 meters we made 253 QSOs on FT8. Thinking further during our “shelter in place” time, the idea came, “Why not phase two bulbs for each band and achieve direction and gain, ie, “phased verticals!”



Figure 4

Cutting two quarter wave 75 ohm coax for each band 870-10 meters, tuned radials, a second hamstick and bulb, the arrays were fashioned. Figure 4 is a picture of our 10m array which we oriented broadside north and south. Due to the length and real estate required for a phased 160 array we opted to continue with just one bulb antenna for 160 meters. The antennas were mounted in or near the woods on the property and provided quite a light show ... especially at night! I am a little surprised there were no reports from neighbors about “blinking lights in the woods!”



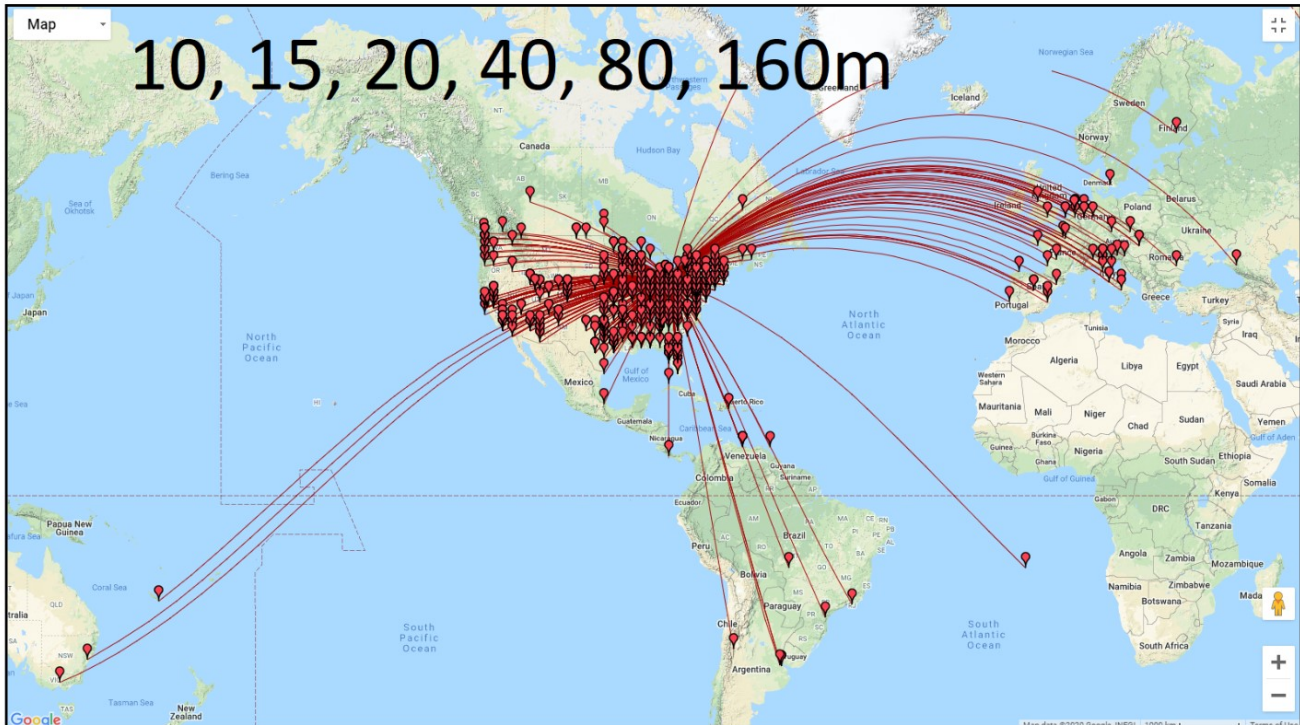
The night light show in the woods!



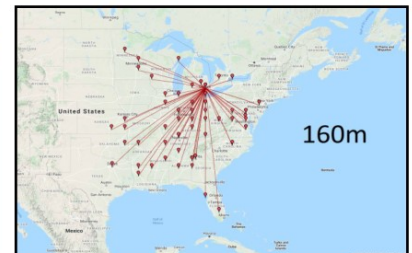
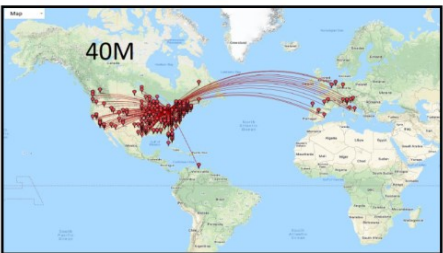
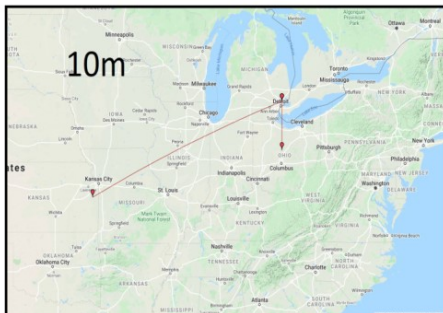
Due to a difference in SWRs the power in each bulb of an array was not the same.



Of course the big question is did they work and what did we work. Oh yes they worked, to the tune of 665 QSOs in less than 24 hours! Check out the total distribution of our contacts and the band by band breakdowns.



We worked all continents. Our best DX was VK and all runn ing with less than 100 watts per bulb!



Truly light bulbs will work as antennas...they will never replace a good dipole nor yagi. It was a “fun” projects and it was great to see it all work as predict, better propagation would have helped on the higher bands.

Now the question is....can we build a four square for next year’s event! Naw...well, maybe!

Thanks to Jeremy KD8VSQ and Roger K2RLY, with out their help it wouldn’t have happened.

# *Hamsplatter*

Fort Wayne Radio Club P.O. Box 15127, Fort Wayne, IN

## Carole's Corner



Coliseum Blvd. The last Fox Hunt for the year will occur in November.

This has definitely been a year to remember so far. This not what we planned on but we are making the best of it. Hopefully we can properly celebrate 101 years next year!

Thank you everyone for all your cooperation. Stay tuned for where the October meeting will be.

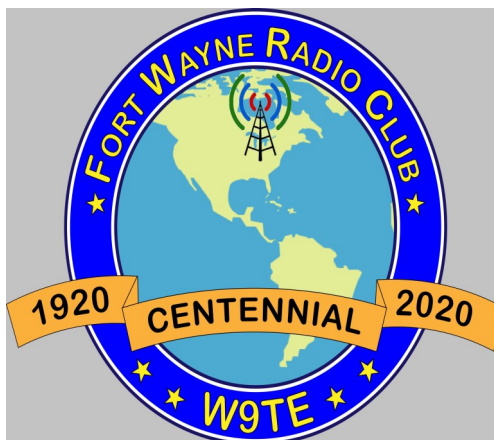
73's and 88's,

*Carole, WB9RUS*

Happy Fall everyone! Soon the leaves will be turning color, and it will be time to stay indoors and operate.

We have been having Board of Directors meetings in the Parking Garage at PFW, but I think the time for that has ended, as well as making use of the Good Shepherd United Methodist Church parking lot for monthly meetings. We are actively looking for a new indoor meeting location that can accommodate our monthly club meetings.

The next Fox Hunt will be October 4th starting at 1:30 from the old K-Mart parking lot on



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## FORT WAYNE RADIO CLUB MEETING MINUTES

18 September 2020

The September meeting of the Ft. Wayne Radio Club, still working around restrictions in place due to the Coronavirus issue, was held in the Good Shepherd United Methodist Church (GSUMC) parking lot on 18 September, 2020.

Club president Carole Burke, WB9RUS, hosted the meeting of about twenty people which suggests that most folks are still gun shy about the Corona virus, or don't care for the outdoor meeting venue. The meeting started at 7:06 pm.

We executed the Salute to the Flag ceremony, and then everyone introduced themselves by their call sign, as we always do.

Carole reported that we are exploring an alternate to the Good Shepherd United Methodist Church as our meeting place as it appears that the GSUMC facilities will not be available, certainly in the near term and perhaps not in the long term as well. The venue's we are currently looking in to include:

The Masonic Temple, Lodge #224, in Leo, via Paul Prestia, KA3OPZ, Facilities in Lawton Park, via Clark Derbyshire, KG9FM,

The Boy Scout building on the St. Vincent de Paul church campus, via Al Burke, WB9SSE,

The Allen County Public Library downtown or one of the satellite facilities, via Al Burke.

In addition, Norm Kirkpatrick, KD9HAV, said he would explore another possibility (the old YWCA complex down on Wells St.), through his church.

Treasurer Debbie Jenks, KB9DEB provided pertinent Treasury numbers as of 18 September, 2020 as follows:

Savings- \$1,831.24

Checking- \$3,250.19

Vanguard- \$11,289.20

Members-130

Steve Nardin, W9SAN noted that last month's Tailgate Hamfest in the church parking lot went well although fewer folks than normal attended. Thanks again Mr. Corona virus. The club sold a few items which garnered \$150.00 for the treasury.

Paul Prestia reported that the D-STAR repeater at our Parrott Rd. site has been upgraded with a new computer (the old computer had failed). The most current version of D-STAR operating software was installed along with the most current user database. However, internet access is up and down and so connectivity with the D-STAR network is not working properly. We think the 900 MHz data-radio link between Parrott Rd. and Phil Hooper's (AB9IZ) QTH, which provides internet access, may be the culprit.

Once we get the internet access at Parrott Rd. stabilized, and D-STAR operating as it should, we can look at interfacing our other digital capable repeater, the 146.31/.91 Fusion machine, also located at Parrott Rd. via a WIRES interface. When this is done the FWRC will be able to provide digital modes via both of these machines.

Paul also reported that we have repaired the leak noted in the roof of our building at Robison Park (where the 146.76 and the 444.875 machines reside). We suspect a piece of ice from the tower hit the roof causing the leak. We applied two coats of rubberized sealing compound to the roof and are looking into how we might build an ice-bridge that covers the entire roof surface for falling ice protection.

Carole noted that the September foxhunt was won by the team of Jim & Annie Pliett, K9OMA & KA9YYI plus Al & Carole Burke. They were the first to find the fox most deviously hidden by Charles Ward, KC9MUT despite experiencing equipment problems. The gory

details of this hunt are summarized in the September Foxhunt Chronicles. The October foxhunt will occur on Sunday, October 4<sup>th</sup>.

Al Burke noted that nominations for FWRC Officers and Board members are open. The club by-laws specify a vote at the October meeting. Given the problem of not having a viable meeting place, we are going to conduct the vote by mail this year should the number of persons running for any particular office warrant it. Lately we have only had one person willing to run for any Officer position, and usually not more than three persons willing to run for a Director position. In that situation the persons who were willing to run for the various positions were elected by acclamation, and that may be the case this year. But if more than one person is willing to run for an Officer position, or more than three for a Directors position, then we will have a reason to conduct a vote. In that case a ballot will be mailed to all club members of record for CY2020. Details of the process (Plan for FWRC Elections for the 2021 Calendar Year) will be emailed to all members of record shortly.

Al also noted that our practice of collecting a significant percentage of following year club membership dues at the Ft. Wayne Hamfest will not be possible this year given that Hamfest is cancelled. Therefore the Board has decided that membership (re)application forms will be hard-copy mailed to all members of record along with a S.A.S.E. so they can fill them out, write a dues check, and return it to the club P.O. Box in the S.A.S.E. As in the past, folks who re-up will have a shot at winning a prize (tbd), similar to what we have done in the past.

The meeting concluded at 7:34 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Al Burke, WB9SSE

Secretary, Fort Wayne Radio Club



## How did you do?

Jim, AC9EZ

Amateur radio contests are one of the many enjoyable aspects of this great hobby. There's no better way to see how well your new antenna system is doing than jumping into a contest and making either a few QSOs or a concerted contest effort. My practice is to spend a few hours in the major contests (CQ WW CW/SSB, CQ 160, Stew Perry Topband, etc.) and set personal operating goals such as: increase my number of contacts, fill in band-slots with new DXCC entities, test out my sending/receiving speed on manually sent CW, etc.

Once a contest is over, there may generally be a wait time anywhere from a few months to nearly a year before one may read the final results. Sometimes, scores, called "raw scores, are released by the contest sponsor (such as the ARRL) and a ham can skim through the hundreds (or thousands) of callsigns with their corresponding scores.

Recently, the ARRL has created an extensive, contest-specific website containing all sorts of results for ARRL contests. This contest website includes such information as contest results, logs received, and other contest-related information. An interesting section on this website is a tab called "Certificates". Clicking on this tab, one finds a search box where a ham may type in his callsign. Upon hitting enter, the website will show the pdf (and a corresponding jpeg file) of any certificates one may have won in any of the ARRL contests (June VHF, September VHF, ARRL International DX, etc.). By clicking on the pdf or jpeg icons next to each contest mentioned for the callsign entered, a file will open of the awarded certificate(s) which may be printed. These certificates can then be framed and placed on the shack wall, a practice known as adding "wallpaper" to the shack.

If you would like to see if you have received any certificates from the ARRL for a past contest win, go to this web address:

<https://contests.arrl.org/certificates.php>.

Simply type in your callsign (or your club's callsign, etc.) and the website will immediately show if you have received any certificates. The certificates will frequently list what placement you received, both in your ARRL section, and ARRL division.



So, check and see what wallpaper you may be able to add to your shack! If you don't yet see anything for your callsign, jump into the next ARRL contest and see what personal goals you can set or achieve. Certificates are offered for more than just 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> place spots. If you need help getting up and running on a contest, just contact either myself or any of the friendly mentors on the repeaters. We will be glad to help!

# State of the Arts

Allen County Amateur Radio Technical Society

P.O. Box 10342, Fort Wayne, IN



## ACARTS President's Message for October

Things are starting to get back to normal with the COVID-19

pandemic, with many of the restrictions being removed. Hopefully, this isn't a false start and the virus comes back with a vengeance along with the start of flu season. Meeting rooms are still not available to us and mask and social distancing guidelines make it impractical to hold any ACARTS meetings. Therefore, ACARTS will not have any meetings in October.

We are all disappointed that the 2020 Fort Wayne Hamfest was cancelled. Every effort was made to find a way for the event to be held. In the long run, the very real potential for reduced attendee numbers, reduced vendor participation, and a smaller worker pool, along with the safety and health of all involved, the decision was made to cancel.

Joseph, K9RFZ, the Hamfest Chairman for 2010 and 2020, has indicated that he will not take on the task for 2021. Thank you very much, Joseph, for the 2019 Hamfest and all the work that went into the 2020 Hamfest arrangements before the cancellation.

Fred Gengnagel, KC9EZP, has agreed to undertake the responsibilities for 2021. The ACARTS board appointed Fred to the po-

sition of 2021 Hamfest Chairman, effective immediately, as there are some Hamfest tasks that needed to be done already. Planning the Hamfest is an all year long job. Please consider helping with some of the tasks throughout the year, not just for the couple day of the Hamfest. With your help, the 2021 Fort Wayne Hamfest can be the best ever. Thank you, Fred, for taking on this challenge. The ACARTS membership and the ham community for several hundred miles around appreciates your commitment. Let us know what you need so that we can help.

Let me know if you have anything that you would like considered by the Board or brought up at a meeting. The board can make decisions by e-mail if anything that needs attention comes up.

In the meantime, remember that we are hams. The HF bands are starting to have more and more openings and activity is picking up. Make use of your radios to stay busy and keep in contact with your friends via the repeaters.

73,

*Dave Lindquist, W9LKH*

# W9INX

ALLEN COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO  
TECHNICAL SOCIETY

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## Repair Work

Carl Luetzelschwab, K9LA

I was tuning my Commander HF-1250 amp (a single 3CX800 ceramic tube) on 20 meters in early September when things turned ugly.

When I applied RF power, there was a snap, crackle, pop and a large amount of grayish-white smoke came out the left side of the amp enclosure. That's not good.



I moved the Commander to the workbench and took off the top cover. Since the smoke came out the left side, I figured there would be some obvious visual damage to a component on the top of the RF deck, which is on the left side. But all looked okay (see the accompanying image).

That suggested the problem was under the RF deck. Another "that's not good," as it will take a big effort to get to the bottom of the RF deck. After doing some searching on the web, everything on top of the RF deck will have to be disassembled and/or disconnected – the band switch, the output coil, the two toroids, the plate choke and anything else that gets in the way to get the RF deck out.

What's on the bottom of the RF deck are some important components – the power supply rectifier diodes, the big electrolytic capacitors for the high voltage and some important resistors. The grayish-white smoke suggests a resistor problem. While there, I'll probably recap the power supply and put in bigger diodes. I bought the amp in 1993 so it's probably time to do some preventative maintenance.

The only other major problem I've had with it is a shorted 3CX800 that got so hot that it melted the non-teflon chimney (a new teflon chimney was installed in that repair effort).

I also discovered that when Palstar bought the Commander line, they added an access panel on the bottom of the HF-1250 to get to the bottom of the RF deck. That's sounds like a great idea, and I considered blindly cutting a rectangular hole in the bottom plate of the amp to get to the bottom of the RF deck. But I figured it would be safer to go the disassemble/disconnect route for now. When all is disassembled/disconnected, I may cut out an access panel in the amp's bottom plate for future repair jobs.

Before getting into the repair effort, I dug out my very old Dentron GLA-1000B amp. It uses four TV sweep tubes (6LQ6s/6JE6s) and it covers 80m, 40m, 20m, 15m and 10m. I recapped it (new electrolytics) and bought four new tubes. I get about 500 Watts out on 80m, 40m and 20m, about 450 Watts on 15m and about 400 Watts on 10m. That's about 3 dB down from the Commander. In summary, the mighty GLA-1000B lives! FYI – Dentron says the GLA acronym stands for Great Little Amp.

The biggest problem with the GLA-1000B is that it does not have 160 meters (I can live without the extra power on 17m and 12m). With the 160 meter season coming to life (just check out recent spots to the topband reflector), this deficiency of the GLA-1000B will certainly drive the repair job on the Commander.

RF deck →



## W9TE and SKCC in September

The monthly Weekend Sprintathon (WES) for SKCC highlighted club calls making each club call a bonus station. W9TE was activated by club members making 223 contacts and scoring #9 of nearly 300 submitted scores! Driving the club call was Al – K9FW, Jim – AC9EZ, Ed – WA9BBN, Jim – KD9GDY, and Tom – KU8T. Additional club members activated their own calls including Rose – KA9GKE, Joe – WB9EAO, Jack – W9GT, Terry – K9FMX, and Bruce – N9DGL. Also, the special SKCC club call for 9-land, KS9KCC, was activated by club members Ken – N8KR, Josh – W9HT and out of town guest Jamie – W0CD. SKCC is alive and active here in Fort Wayne!

### Weekend Sprintathon Results

Results for WES: 12-13 Sep 2020

[Overall](#) | [QRPp](#) | [QRP](#) | [QRO](#) | [QRO+](#) | [Multi-Operator](#) | [SWL](#) | [By SPC](#) | [Soapbox](#)

#### Overall results

Rank	Callsign	Name	SKCC #	SPC	QSO's	SPC's	S/T/C	Bonus	Score
1	<a href="#">KS8KCC</a>	Dit	16000T	MI	483	72	115/137/26	2,325	40,326
2	<a href="#">K3EW</a>	PHIL	10605S	MD	330	71	102/90/10	1,875	27,785
3	<a href="#">KS9KCC</a>	Codie	12000S	IN	305	59	86/93/14	1,375	21,660
4	<a href="#">W4YK</a>	BRARC	23019	NC	246	53	77/76/10	2,625	17,628
5	W5TMT	Ray	16210S	TX	224	53	67/70/10	2,175	15,802
6	<a href="#">F6EJN</a>	Bob	508S	FRA	185	60	61/63/4	1,950	14,615
7	<a href="#">W1TAG</a>	John	15461S	ME	214	51	76/67/11	1,650	14,429
8	<a href="#">KS1KCC</a>	Skcc	20550T	NC	245	44	88/61/13	950	13,725
9	<a href="#">W9TE</a>	<a href="#">FWRG</a>	20000T	IN	223	45	78/65/13	550	12,470

## October SKCC

Coming up the first weekend in October (3-4) is the annual SKCC QSO Party. The QSO party is open to all amateurs and in leu of sending SKCC numbers, stations will send their 4-character grid square. This is a 24 hour event running from 1800 Saturday through 1800utc Sunday.

The monthly WES weekend event will be held on October 10 and 11. Bonus stations will be the Triple Key Award members. (there are only 78 of them!) Look for our two Triple Key members: Ed – WA9BBN and Ken – N8KR.







## SEPTEMBER 2020

The weather on 13 September was perfect for this month's edition of the FWRC Foxhunt; mild temperatures in the 70's and slightly cloudy with a gentle

breeze. A good day to be outside. But despite the gorgeous weather, we only had two foxhunt teams show up at the Cobin Memorial Park starting point. Team #1 consisted of Al & Carole Burke, WB9's SSE & RUS plus Jim & Annie Pliett, K9OMA & KA9YYI. Team #2 consisted of Steve & Linda Nardin, W9's SAN & LAN plus their grandson Alex.

Charles Ward, KC9MUT served as the fox. He choose the parking lot of the Harlan Community Park in Harlan, Indiana, and quite effectively hid the microfox at the bottom of a section of chain link fence barrier, which was located in a field filled with weeds, by attaching it to the bottom structure of the barrier using a magnet. The (expletive deleted) thing was essentially invisible. He implemented the high power fox using a yagi at the top of his truck mounted telescoping mast, about 30' high, and drove it at one point with about 100 watts on 146.430 MHz

Charles started the hunt promptly at 13:30 hours with his first high power transmission. The Nardin team heard him right off and took off, but, egad, the Burke/Pliett heard nothing! As it turned out we had an equipment failure, the receiver. The receiver is a venerable IC-2AT two meter hand held modified for use in foxhunting. Jim modified it to obtain very fine control of the rf gain of the front end amplifier and mixer such that he can obtain accurate S-meter readings when he rotates the roof mounted DF antenna looking for the peak of the received fox signal that establishes the DF bearing.

Anyway, the IC-2AT died, so we were deaf. After replacing the IC-2AT with another receiver we were able to hear the fox but did not have any way near the DF capability it normally provided. But we got a bearing indicating the fox was to the west. So off we went.

Once we got through the city heading west, we then got an indication that the bearing was to the south, so south we went. A little while later we got a bearing indicating north-east. So we headed up Anthony and finally found ourselves heading north-east on Crescent, and as we passed by the Purdue-Ft. Wayne campus we picked up a very large microfox signal, but the bearing remained to the north-east so we follow it and wound up on 37 headed for Harlan. (We suspect that Charles was up to some shenanigans with the microfox because the Nardin team experienced the same (strong microfox signal) when they were around Smith Field. Charles isn't talking; he just commented that things were working as he had planned.....hmmmm.

We figured that since we were so late getting into the hunt due to the equipment failure, and at first taking off to the west, and then south, that surely the Nardin team would be first to localize the fox. But when we got into Harlan and figured that the fox was most likely near or at the Harlan Municipal Park, we headed that way and low-and-behold found that we were the first to localize the fox. Golly-gee. So we employed our hand-held DF equipment and started searching for the micro-fox on foot. There were multiple sections (about 8' long) of cyclone fence barriers stacked

upright in a weed patch and our hand-held DF equipment indicated that the microfox was somewhere hidden amongst the sections of barrier. After about 45 minutes of searching we still had not located the microfox when the Nardin team showed up. Seems like they had been chasing screwy DF bearings too. (We are considering a Scopolamine based truth serum session with the Nardin teams and Charles as victim to get to the bottom of this).

The cyclone fence barriers had a bar running along the top and along the bottom of each section of barrier. Charles wrapped the micro-fox in black tape and it formed a package roughly the shape of a O'Henry's candy bar. He had attached a small magnet to the package and then attached the package to the bottom side of the bottom barrier bar so that it essentially became invisible to anyone looking for it from above, especially since the barriers were stored in an area full of weeds.

Jim found the microfox after I had been lifting barrier sections off the ground knowing that the microfox just had to be down among the weeds. Charles outdid himself on this one.

After conclusion of the hunt we boogied over to the Dairy Queen at Chapel Ridge for some well deserved refreshments. As the weather was delightful we were able to enjoy our repast at outside tables despite the restrictions placed on all kinds of activities by the Covus-19 mess.

The scores for the September hunt and for year-to-date are as follows:

HUNTER	SEPTEMBER POINTS	YEAR-TO-DATE POINTS
WB9RUS	2	16.33
WB9SSE	2	16.33
K9OMA	3	14
KA9YYI	2	12
KC9MUT	6	17
KC9EZP	0	1
AB9IZ	0	3
KD9OOC	0	2
W9SAN	1	20.33
W9LAN	1	19.33
ALEX	1	17.33
K9LI	0	6
JULIE	0	5
K9WEH	0	2
KD9NRT	0	8.75
KD9ODP	0	7.75

The October foxhunt is scheduled to occur on Sunday, 4 October starting at 13:30 hours at Corbin Memorial Park, down by Lakeside Golf Course. Ride a-long's are welcome and encouraged! Why not give it a try?

Respectfully submitted,

Al Burke, WB9SSE



*For sale and wanted listings in this section are provided to members of the Fort Wayne Radio Club, Allen County Amateur Radio Technical Society, and the Fort Wayne DX Association. Listings can be renewed upon request to the editor (see pg. 2 for contact information).*

- DX Engineering 43 foot vertical for 160 - 10 meters. It includes:
  - (1) 43 foot DX Engineering Thunderbolt antenna, DXE-MBVA-1UP
  - (2) DX Engineering SAF-T-TILT tilt-over mechanism to allow installation by one person
  - (3) DX Engineering 4:1 unun with a 2kW/5kW peak power rating at 5:1 VSWR
  - (4) Hy-gain-6104 range extender for 160 and 80 meters
  - (5) ground mounting pipe

This antenna does require a radial system.

All are in good condition for \$335.



For this antenna, please contact Bill Rodgers K3HWP at HWP\_Electronics (at) junio.com

- Two straight keys. Either key for \$20 apiece. Contact Al K9FW at k9fw (at) frontier.com



- Max-Gain Systems MK-8 HD telescoping antenna mast with heavy duty guy ring kit. \$120
- W9IIX gin pole. Needs new rope. \$75

For any of these items, please contact Terry K9FMX at tjbowman (at) frontier.com or at 260-705-7128.

Your item could be listed here next month! Just send the editor an email with your listings before October 30th! See page 2 for contact information.



**Contest Calendar (Selected) for October 2020**

CWops Mini-CWT Test	0300Z-0400Z, Oct 1
SKCC Sprint Europe	1900Z-2100Z, Oct 1
Portable Operations Challenge	0000Z, Oct 3 to 2359Z, Oct 4
TRC DX Contest	0600Z, Oct 3 to 1800Z, Oct 4
Oceania DX Contest, Phone	0600Z, Oct 3 to 0600Z, Oct 4
German Telegraphy Contest	0700Z-1000Z, Oct 3
Russian WW Digital Contest	1200Z, Oct 3 to 1159Z, Oct 4
YLRL DX/NA YL Anniversary Contest	1400Z, Oct 3 to 0200Z, Oct 4
California QSO Party	1600Z, Oct 3 to 2200Z, Oct 4
SKCC QSO Party	1800Z, Oct 3 to 1800Z, Oct 4
RSGB DX Contest	0500Z-2300Z, Oct 4
UBA ON Contest, SSB	0600Z-0900Z, Oct 4
Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest	0100Z-0159Z, Oct 6
Phone Fray	0230Z-0300Z, Oct 7
QRP ARCI Fall QSO Party	0000Z-2359Z, Oct 10
ARRL EME Contest	0000Z, Oct 10 to 2359Z, Oct 11
10-10 Int. 10-10 Day Sprint	0001Z-2359Z, Oct 10
Nevada QSO Party	0300Z, Oct 10 to 2100Z, Oct 11
Oceania DX Contest, CW	0600Z, Oct 10 to 0600Z, Oct 11
Scandinavian Activity Contest, SSB	1200Z, Oct 10 to 1200Z, Oct 11
SKCC Weekend Sprintathon	1200Z, Oct 10 to 2400Z, Oct 11
Arizona QSO Party	1500Z, Oct 10 to 0500Z, Oct 11
Pennsylvania QSO Party	1600Z, Oct 10 to 0500Z, Oct 11 and 1300Z-2200Z, Oct 11
South Dakota QSO Party	1800Z, Oct 10 to 1800Z, Oct 11
4 States QRP Group Second Sunday Sprint	0000Z-0200Z, Oct 12
Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest	0100Z-0159Z, Oct 13
10-10 Int. Fall Contest, CW	0001Z, Oct 17 to 2359Z, Oct 18
New York QSO Party	1400Z, Oct 17 to 0200Z, Oct 18
Stew Perry Topband Challenge	1500Z, Oct 17 to 1500Z, Oct 18
Worked All Germany Contest	1500Z, Oct 17 to 1459Z, Oct 18
Classic Exchange, Phone	1400Z, Oct 18 to 0800Z, Oct 19 and 1400Z, Oct 20 to 0800Z, Oct 21
Illinois QSO Party	1700Z, Oct 18 to 0100Z, Oct 19
ARRL School Club Roundup	1300Z, Oct 19 to 2359Z, Oct 23
Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest	0100Z-0159Z, Oct 20
CQ Worldwide DX Contest, SSB	0000Z, Oct 24 to 2359Z, Oct 25
Kentucky State Parks on the Air	1400Z-2200Z, Oct 24
SKCC Sprint	0000Z-0200Z, Oct 28
Zombie Shuffle	1600-2400 local, Oct 30
UK/EI DX Contest, SSB	1200Z, Oct 31 to 1200Z, Nov 1
Russian WW MultiMode Contest	1200Z, Oct 31 to 1159Z, Nov 1

*This information comes from the WA7BNM Contest Calendar at [www.contestcalendar.com](http://www.contestcalendar.com) and is gratefully acknowledged. It is deemed accurate as of the time of publication.*

Area Nets					
Daily			Tuesday		
8:00 AM	3.535	Daily (QIN) Indiana Section CW net	7:30 PM	147.150+	21 Repeater Group Net (97.4 PL)
8:30 AM	3.940	Daily Indiana Traffic Net	8:00 PM	50.580 USB	FWRC 6-Meter SSB Net
6:00 PM	3.940	Daily Indiana Traffic Net	9:00 PM	146.940-	Allen Co. ARES Training Net (141.3 PL)
6:30 PM	146.880-	IMO (alternate is 146.760)	Wednesday		
7:00 PM	147.015+	Tri State Two Meter Net	7:00 PM	146.760-	FWRC YL Net
8:00 PM	3.535	Daily (QIN) Indiana Section CW net	8:00 PM	145.270-	Whitley Co. ARES (141.3 PL)
Week-days			8:00 PM	50.580 FM	FWRC 6-Meter FM Net
9:00 AM	3.820	Little Red Barn Net	9:00 PM	146.940-	Help and Swap Net (141.3 PL)
Sunday			Thursday		
8:00 PM	444.550+	Whitley Co. ARC Sunday Night Net (141.3 PL)	8:00 PM	D-STAR	Indiana D-STAR net (Note 3)
8:30 PM	1.965 & 146.910-	"No-Name" Net also on EchoLink Node number 519521	8:00 PM	50.580	AM 6-Meter AM Net
9:00 PM	145.53 simplex	Northeast Indiana Packet Net 1200 baud (Note 2)	8:30 PM	145.510 simplex	Allen County ARES Digital Operations Team Training Net (Note 4)
Monday			Saturday		
8:00 PM	224.780-	Fort Wayne 224 Net	8:00 PM	146.685-	Huntington ARES(141.3 PL)
1. All times local time. Any changes or corrections should be submitted to the newsletter editor at drjoshlong (at) gmail.com. 2. NEIPN is direct accessible via any BPQ Chat Node (or through Node hopping etc.) via other packet frequencies in this area and other areas through other nodes (it is locally direct accessible on 145.53 in NC & NE Indiana/NW Ohio and SE Michigan using KA9LCF-11, KC9VYU-11, N9LCF-11, N9PXO-11, K9BIF-11) Most BPQ Nodes use an SSID of -11. 3. Reflector REF024B. 4. Net starts using BPSK-31 and switches to BPSK-250 after roll call to pass traffic etc. NBEMS suite of software (FLDIGI, FLMSG, and FLAMP) is preferred. 5. Indiana HF Traffic Nets Web Site: <a href="http://www.inarri.org/index.php/public-service/indiana-nts">http://www.inarri.org/index.php/public-service/indiana-nts</a>					

Fort Wayne repeaters							
Frequency	Offset	Tone	Callsign	Frequency	Offset	Tone	Callsign
145.330	-0.6 MHz	--	W9FEZ	443.100	+5 MHz	141.3	K9MMQ
146.880	-0.6 MHz	--	W9INX	443.275	+5 MHz	141.3	K9MMQ
147.255	+0.6 MHz	--	W9INX	442.6375	+5 MHz	--	N9MTF
146.760	-0.6 MHz	--	W9TE	444.800	+5 MHz	--	W9FEZ
146.910	-0.6 MHz	--	W9TE	443.800	+5 MHz	--	W9INX
146.940	-0.6 MHz	141.3	W9TE	442.99375	+5 MHz	--	W9TE
224.780	-1.6 MHz	--	W9FEZ	444.8750	+5 MHz	141.3	W9TE
				53.3300	-1 MHz	--	W9FEZ



**FWRC Membership Application**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Call Sign: \_\_\_\_\_  
 License Class: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Street address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_  
 State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email address: \_\_\_\_\_ ARRL Member? \_\_\_\_\_

(ARRL membership helps the club maintain ARRL affiliation)

May we list your name, call & email address in our membership roster & on our club web site?

**Fort Wayne Radio Club dues:**

Regular membership	\$20.00 / year
Family membership <sup>1</sup>	\$30.00 / year
Student membership <sup>2</sup>	\$5.00 / year
Associate membership <sup>3</sup>	\$20.00 / year

(Memberships for July-December are ½ the stated amounts)

Please attach a check to this form (paying by check is strongly encouraged) made out to:

Fort Wayne Radio Club (check number \_\_\_\_\_) and bring to a club meeting or mail to:

Fort Wayne Radio Club

P.O. Box 15127

Fort Wayne, IN 46885-5127

Please list all names and calls on an attached sheet.

K-12 or full time student.

Unlicensed member.

**ACARTS Membership Application**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Call Sign: \_\_\_\_\_  
 License Class: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Street address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_  
 State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email address: \_\_\_\_\_ ARRL Member? \_\_\_\_\_

(ARRL membership helps the club maintain ARRL affiliation)

May we list your name, call & email address in our membership roster & on our club web site?

**ACARTS dues:**

Regular membership	\$12.00 / year
Additional family members <sup>1</sup>	\$6.00 / year
Student membership <sup>2</sup>	\$6.00 / year
Associate membership <sup>3</sup>	\$6.00 / year

(New regular memberships are \$1.00/month)

Please attach a check to this form (paying by check is strongly encouraged) made out to:

Allen County Amateur Radio Technical Society (check number \_\_\_\_\_) and bring to a club meeting or mail to:

A.C.A.R.T.S.

P.O. Box 10342

Fort Wayne, IN

Please list all names and calls on an attached sheet.

K-12 or full time student.

Unlicensed member.